

GERMANY GUILTY OF BARBARITIES IN WAR CONDUCT

Atrocious Treatment of the Helpless Part of Campaign Plans of Military Leaders.

POLICY OF FRIGHTFULNESS

Terrorism Declared a Necessary Principle in National Warfare—Brutalities May Be Said to Be Directly Attributable to the Emperor Himself.

A pamphlet just issued by the Committee on Public Information tells of the horrors deliberately and systematically inflicted upon the people of Belgium by the German soldiers, under the orders of their commanding officers. Quotations given are from documents already made public or in the possession of the government at Washington.

For many years leaders in every civilized nation have been trying to make warfare less brutal. The great landmarks in this movement are the Geneva and Hague conventions. The former made rules as to the care of the sick and wounded and established the Red Cross. At the first meeting at Geneva, in 1864, it was agreed, and until the present war it has been taken for granted, that the wounded, and the doctors and nurses who cared for them, would be safe from all attacks by the enemy. The Hague conventions, drawn up in 1864 and 1907, made additional rules to soften the usages of war and especially to protect noncombatants and conquered lands. Germany took a prominent part in these meetings, and with the other nations solemnly pledged her faith to keep all the rules except one article in the Hague regulations. This was article 44, which forbade the conqueror to force any of the conquered to give information. All the other rules and regulations she accepted in the most binding manner.

But Germany's military leaders had no intention of keeping these solemn promises. They had been trained along different lines. Their leading generals for many years had been urging a policy of frightfulness. In the middle of the nineteenth century Von Clausewitz was looked upon as the greatest military authority, and the methods which he advocated were used by the Prussian army in its successful cause these wars had been successful, the wisdom of Von Clausewitz' methods seemed to the Prussian army to be fully proved.

Policy of Frightfulness.
Now, the essence of Von Clausewitz' teachings was that successful war involves the ruthless application of force. In the opening chapter of his master work, "Von Kriege" ("On War"), he says:

"Violence arms itself with the inventions of art and science. . . . Self-imposed restrictions, almost imperceptible and hardly worth mentioning, termed usages of international law, accompany it without essentially impairing its power. . . . Now, philanthropic souls might easily imagine that there is a skillful method of disarming or subduing an enemy without causing too much bloodshed, and that this is the true tendency of the art of war. However plausible this may appear, still it is an error which must be destroyed; for in such dangerous things as war, the errors which proceed from a spirit of 'good-naturedness' are precisely the worst. As the use of physical force to the utmost extent by no means excludes the co-operation of the intelligence, it follows that he who uses force ruthlessly, without regard to bloodshed, must obtain a superiority, if his enemy does not so use it."

In 1877-78, in the course of a series of articles upon "Military Necessity and Humanity," General von Hartmann wrote, in the same spirit as Von Clausewitz:

"The enemy state must not be spared the want and wretchedness of war; these are particularly useful in shattering its energy and subduing its will." "Individual persons may be harshly dealt with when an example is made of them, intended to serve as a warning. . . . Whenever a national war breaks out, terrorism becomes a necessary military principle." "It is a gratuitous illusion to suppose that modern war does not demand far more brutality, far more violence, and an action far more general than was formerly the case." "When international war has burst upon us, terrorism becomes a principle made necessary by military considerations."

"War Established by God."
In 1881 Von Moltke, who had been commander in chief of the Prussian army in the Franco-Prussian war, declared:

"Perpetual peace is a dream and not even a beautiful dream. War is an element in the order of the world established by God. By it the most noble virtues of man are developed, courage and renunciation, fidelity to duty and the spirit of sacrifice—the soldier gives his life. Without war, the world would degenerate and lose itself in materialism." "The soldier who endures suffering, privation and fatigue, who courts dangers, cannot take only 'in proportion to the resources of the country. He must take all that is nec-

essary to his existence. One has no right to demand of him anything superhuman." "The great good in war is that it should be ended quickly. In view of this, every means, except those which are positively condemnable, must be permitted. I cannot, in any way, agree with the declaration of St. Petersburg when it pretends that 'the weakening of the military forces of the enemy' constitutes the only legitimate method of procedure in war. No! One must attack all the resources of the enemy government, his finances, his railroads, his stock of provisions and even his prestige. . . ."

Many other examples might be cited from the writings of German generals. The very best illustration of this attitude, however, is to be found in the emperor's various speeches, and especially in his speech to his soldiers on the eve of their departure for China in 1900. On July 27 the kaiser went to Bremerhaven to bid farewell to the German troops. As they were drawn up, ready to embark for China, he addressed to them a last official message from the fatherland. The local newspaper reported his speech in full. In it appeared this advice and admonition from the emperor, the commander in chief of the army, the head of all Germany:

Soldiers Told to Be Merciless.
"As soon as you come to blows with the enemy he will be beaten. No mercy will be shown! No prisoners will be taken! As the Huns, under King Attila, made a name for themselves, which is still mighty in traditions and legends today, may the name of Germany be so fixed in China by your deeds, that no Chinese shall ever again dare even to look at a German soldier. . . . Open the way for Kultur once for all!"

Even the Imperial councillors seem to have been shocked at the emperor's speech, and efforts were promptly made to suppress the circulation of his exact words. The efforts were only partly successful. A few weeks later, when the letters from the German soldiers in China were being published, in local German papers, the leading socialist newspaper, Vorwaerts, excerpted from them reports of atrocities under the title "Letters of the Huns." Many of the letters in the reichstag felt very keenly the brutality of the emperor's speech. The obnoxious word "Huns" had excited almost universal condemnation. When the reichstag met, in November, the speech was openly discussed. Herr Lieber of the center (Catholic party), after quoting the "no mercy" portion of the speech, added, "There are, alas, in Germany groups enough who have regarded the atrocities told in the letters which have been published as the dutiful response of soldiers so addressed and encouraged." The leader of the social democrats, Herr Bebel, spoke even more pointedly. Toward the end of a two-hour address on the atrocities committed by the German soldiers in China and on the speech of the emperor, he said:

"If Germany wishes to be the bearer of civilization to the world, we will follow without contradiction. But the ways and means in which this world policy has been carried on thus far, in which it has been defined by the emperor . . . are not, in our opinion, the way to preserve the world position of Germany, to gain for Germany the respect of the world."

The consequences of the emperor's speech Bebel aptly described: "By it the signal was given, garbed in the highest authority of the German empire, which must have most weighty consequences, not only for the troops who went to China but also for those who stayed at home. An expedition of revenge so barbarous as this has never occurred in the last hundred years and not often in history; at least, nothing worse than this has happened in history, either done by the Huns, by the Vandals, by Genghis Khan, by Tamerlane, or even by Tilly when he sacked Magdeburg."

Atrocities in China.
These atrocities in China or "Letters of the Huns" continued to be published in the Vorwaerts for several years and appeared intermittently in the debates of the reichstag as late as 1906. At that time the socialist, Herr Kunert, reviewing the procedure in a trial of which he had been the victim in the previous summer, stated that he had offered to prove "that German soldiers in China had engaged in wanton and brutal ravaging; that plunder, pillage, extortion, robbery, as well as rape and sexual abuses of the worst kind, had occurred on a very large scale and that German soldiers had participated in them." He had not been given an opportunity to prove his allegations, but had been sentenced to prison for three months for assailing the honor of the "whole German army." The outrageousness of this sentence was made clear by the revelations, made in the reichstag shortly afterwards, of similar atrocities committed by German officials and soldiers in Africa in the campaign against the Hereros.

These ideas, which have come to control the minds of the military class, are best shown in the "German War Book" ("Kriegsbrauch im Landkriege"), published in 1902. The tone of this authoritative book may be judged from the following extracts:

Teachings of German War Book.
"But since the tendency of thought in the last century was dominated essentially by humanitarian considerations which not infrequently degenerated into sentimentality and baby emotion (Sentimentalität und weichelecher Gefühlschwärmerei), there have not been wanting attempts to influence the development of the usages of war in a way which was in fundamental contradiction with the nature of war and its object. Attempts of this kind will also not be wanting in the future, the more so as these agitations have found a kind of moral

recognition in some provisions of the Geneva convention and the Brussels and Hague conferences."

"By steeping himself in military history an officer will be able to guard himself against excessive humanitarian notions; it will teach him that certain severities, are indispensable to war, nay more, that the only true humanity very often lies in a ruthless application of them."

For the guidance of the officers in case the inhabitants of conquered territory should take up arms against the German army, the "German War Book" quotes with approval the letter Napoleon sent to his brother Joseph, when the inhabitants of Italy were attempting to revolt against him:

"The security of your dominion depends on how you behave in the conquered province. Burn down a dozen places which are not willing to submit themselves. Of course, not until you have first looted them; my soldiers must not be allowed to go away with their hands empty. Have three to six persons hanged in every village which has joined the revolt; pay no respect to the cossack (that is, to members of the clergy)."

Officers Trained to Be Savages.
Some of the rules laid down in the "German War Book" are illustrated, and their spirit made more definite in "Interprete Militaire zum Gebrauch im Feindesland" ("Military Interpreter for Use in the Enemy's Country"). This is a manual edited at Berlin in 1906. "It contains," says the introduction, "the French translation of the greater part of documents, letters, and proclamations, and some orders of which it may be necessary to make use in time of war." Thus, eight years before this war began, the German military authorities were not only preparing their officers to wage war in a manner wholly contrary to the Hague regulations, but also were looking forward to the use of these proclamations in French or Belgian territory. Among its forms, ready for use by inserting names, date, and places, are the following:

"A fine of 600,000 marks in consequence of an attempt made by — to assassinate a German soldier, is imposed on the town of O. By order of —"

"Efforts have been made, without result, to obtain the withdrawal of the fine."

"The term fixed for payment expires tomorrow, Saturday, December 17, at noon."

"Bank notes, cash, or silver plate will be accepted."

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 7th of this month, in which you bring to my notice the great difficulty which you expect to meet in levying the contributions. . . . I can but regret the explanations which you have thought proper to give me on this subject; the order in question which emanates from my government is so clear and precise, and the instructions which I have received in the matter are so categorical that if the sum due by the town of R— is not paid the town will be burned down without pity!"

Ruthless Destruction Ordered.
"On account of the destruction of the bridge of F—, I order: The district shall pay a special contribution of 10,000,000 francs by way of amends. This is brought to the notice of the public, who are informed that the method of assessment of the said sum will be enforced with the utmost severity. The village of F— will be destroyed immediately by fire, with the exception of certain buildings occupied for the use of the troops."

These forms have been of great use to the German commanders in Belgium and northern France. The closeness with which they have been followed in these conquered lands, during the present war, may be seen by reading these two proclamations:

"The City of Brussels, exclusive of its suburbs, has been punished by an additional fine of 5,000,000 francs on account of the attack made upon a German soldier by Ryckere, one of its police officials."

"The Governor of Brussels, 'BARON VON LUETTWITZ,' November 1, 1914.

Placard posted on the walls of Lunenburg by order of the German authorities:

"Notice to the People:
"Some of the inhabitants of Lunenburg made an attack on ambuscade on the German columns and wagons (trains). The same day (some of the) inhabitants shot at sanitary formations marked with the Red Cross. In addition German wounded and the military ambulance were fired upon."

"Because of these acts of hostility a fine of 650,000 francs is imposed upon the commune of Lunenburg. The mayor is ordered to pay this sum in gold or silver up to 50,000 francs, September 6, 1914, at nine o'clock in the morning, to the representative of the German military authority. All protests will be considered null and void. No delay will be granted."

"If the commune does not punctually obey the order to pay the sum of 650,000 francs, all property that can be levied upon will be seized."

"In case of non-payment, visits from house to house will be made and all the inhabitants will be searched. If anyone knowingly has concealed money or attempted to hold back his goods from the seizure by the military authorities, or if anyone attempts to leave the city, he will be shot."

"The mayor and the hostages taken by the military authorities will be held responsible for the exact execution of the above orders."

"The mayor is ordered to publish immediately this notice to the commune."

"VON FASBENDER."

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Items of Interest Pertaining to the Affairs of Nebraska.

The Lincoln school board has decided to bar German teaching from all grades in the schools. German will be taught in the high school only as a selective study. A resolution was passed calling the matter to the attention of the State Council of Defense as a step towards eliminating German from all schools in the state, no matter whether denominational or otherwise.

W. L. Crowe, an itinerant preacher from Chanute, Kan., was arrested at Ayr by federal authorities and bound over for trial in February. Bond was fixed at \$5,000, which he was unable to supply. The complaint charges Crowe declared before audiences at Holstein and Ayr that he would not take a combatant position in war and advised those drafted to seek non-combatant positions.

The government, it is said, is considering Fort Omaha and Fort Crook stopping stations when the postal airplane lines which will carry mail from coast to coast, are established. While the government has not yet taken official action, it has been mentioned that Omaha is seriously considered the half-way station in this contemplated trans-continental air route.

Poultry, milk and dairy products, fish, fruits and vegetables are not only excluded from the price fixing lists of the food administration, but will continue to be so excluded, according to G. W. Wattles, Nebraska food administrator.

The board of education at Sutherland, Neb., awarded the contract for the new school building to D. W. Woods of Denver, Col. The contract calls for the completion of the building by September 1, 1918. When completed the building will cost about forty-two thousand dollars.

The Stromsburg Commercial club held its monthly dinner the other night, at which time O. E. Mickey of Osceola paid a Liberty bond wager. He wagered an oyster supper that Osceola would sell more Liberty bonds than Stromsburg, and lost the wager.

A contract has been signed up between the government and the farmers' irrigation district of western Nebraska, whereby the former will take over the tri-state ditch and properties.

War has taken a big toll of students from the Normal school at Kearney, during the past week nine young men having enlisted, leaving less than 100 male pupils in the college.

Beatrice Knights of Columbus raised a total of \$1,989.55 in their drive for war work funds. Cortland contributed \$48.50; Barneston and Liberty, \$269.50 and Odell \$263.50.

Since the Gage county board of supervisors offered a bounty of 10 cents for each gopher sculp last summer, over 2,000 have been turned in by boys and young men of the county.

Colfax county raised nearly ten times its quota for the Y. M. C. A. war work, the exact amount being \$9,833. One thousand dollars was the county's apportionment.

The Nebraska State Veterinarians' association, at its annual meeting in Lincoln, adopted a resolution endorsing the president and his action in declaring war on Austria.

At a Red Cross sale at Farnam a pig brought \$100, a goose \$50 and beans sold at \$1 a pound. The sum of \$825.61 was raised at the sale.

Lincoln's chief of police, H. Antler, has been made head of the military police at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas.

The Western Potash company is preparing to break ground for a new potash plant near Antioch in Sheridan county.

Food Administrator Wattles announced that he has received word from Washington that no more cane sugar is to be shipped into Nebraska. Humbolt reports that seven boxes have been shipped by the Red Cross to Chicago up to the present time.

Frank L. Haller of Omaha has resigned as president of the board of regents of the state university.

Weston organized a company of home guards with a membership of over one hundred.

Of the 1,500 hotels and restaurants in Nebraska, J. F. Letton, chairman of the state food conservation committee, reports that 1,200 of them have signed food pledge cards to faithfully observe meatless and wheatless days.

At a meeting of the Otoe village board a few days ago an electric light franchise was granted to Dr. J. L. Paine. The plant has been ordered and it is only a question of a short time now until the village will be well lighted.

Soft, frostbitten corn which has proved a nightmare for Nebraska farmers, is more readily devoured by hogs than the hard, firm ears, according to John Rohike, Kenesaw farmer.

As a result of the splendid showing Douglas county has made in securing enlistments, it will probably be excluded from the second draft, it is said.

At a meeting of the Allen school board a contract was let for the erection of a new \$45,000 high school building.

According to figures taken from a German paper by State Food Controller Wattles, eggs are selling in Germany at 91.2 cents a dozen; butter at 69.6 cents a pound; condensed milk at 45.9 cents for 10 ounces, and lard at over \$1 a pound. Fifty per cent coffee in Germany costs 45.9 cents per pound, while other staples cost a great deal more than Nebraskans are forced to pay. Wearing apparel is extremely high in Germany, some articles having risen in price sixteen times greater than before the war.

More than 65,000 Nebraskans who never paid income tax heretofore will have to pay it this year. Last year only 3,478 Nebraskans paid income tax. This year it is estimated 70,000 Nebraskans will pay it. The old income tax, which is still in effect, provides an exemption of \$3,000 for unmarried and of \$4,000 for married persons. The war income tax provides an exemption of only \$1,000 for unmarried and of only \$2,000 for married persons.

Omaha mourned its first loss among the many men of the Nebraska metropolis who have joined the army or navy, when Mrs. Flora Kalk received word from Washington that her son, Ensign Staunton F. Kalk, died from exposure following the sinking of the American destroyer, Jacob Jones, by a German U-boat.

"Recruiting Day" in Omaha was a wonderful success, 530 men being sworn into the U. S. service. This is the largest results for any one day since the war declaration. Three hundred and sixty Omaha recruits and twenty from Sioux City were sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, Monday evening.

All records for cold weather in eastern Nebraska were broken last Thursday when the thermometer registered 15 degrees below zero at several points. Never before has the eastern half of the state experienced such cold weather so early in the winter.

Pilfering German books from Nebraska schools is becoming quite popular. All the German books in the Millard high school, except four, were found missing the other day and just recently citizens of Central City broke into the school building and made away with all the German books.

The Tel Jed Sodal, Bohemian Turner society, of Plattsmouth, sent a telegram of approval to President Wilson for his action in recommending a declaration of war on Austria. "The dual monarchy is a worse criminal than Germany, even if less dangerous," said the telegram.

Over-exertion is believed to have caused the death of John Kronk of Abbie, Butler county, who was found dead beside a newly made grave. It is thought that just as he had finished digging and walling up his own grave, he died.

Richard Azim, in charge of the American relief campaign in this state, says that each person in the United States must contribute six cents if the destitute people of the bible lands are to be kept from starving.

Omaha has undertaken the task of securing 40,000 Red Cross members by Christmas. The Nebraska metropolis has issued a challenge to any city in the United States to better its record in proportion to memberships, population considered.

Brock, Nemaha county, has sent 27 men to the army; has subscribed \$1,485 to the Y. M. C. A. war fund, and has given \$142 to the Young Women's Christian association. The population of Brock is 434.

A fast Union Pacific passenger train ploughed through a herd of 103 steers near Buda, Buffalo county, killing 41 of them. The cattle were the property of Jim Lawson, well known feeder.

The West Point school board has decided to cut short the Christmas vacation to meet the conditions expected to prevail in the spring. The vacation will begin on December 21 and continue until December 31.

Three carloads of hogs, which had been shipped to farmers of the Liberty vicinity from Missouri points, were found to be affected with cholera when examined by a Beatrice veterinarian.

Jacob Schaffer, of Hastings, in the U. S. navy service, died from the effects of a gas accident, while aboard the U. S. submarine A-2. The body will be brought to Hastings for burial.

Gage county has set a goal of 7,000 Red Cross members in the campaign which started Monday.

Preliminary steps toward the organization of Gage county for war relief work has been taken at Beatrice by a committee of forty-five men recently named to attend to the details of a systematic business organization.

A barbed wire fence now surrounds the Omaha water pumping station at Florence. No person is permitted to enter the grounds without a permit. The fence is for protection of the plant and water basins, during the war, it is said.

With the standard bread loaf becoming effective in Omaha, the price dropping perceptibly, bakers of the metropolis selling bread at 8c for the 16 oz. loaf.

Following a conference of the trustees of the German Lutheran school at Pender and the county council of defense, it was decided to close the school permanently.

The farm loan movement has been energetically taken up at West Point. An association has been formed under the name of the West Point National Farm Loan association.

TO ENROLL MEN FOR WAR WORK

Labor Is Needed in Shipyards and Factories.

HIGHEST SPEED IS NECESSARY

Insatiable Demands of the Large Army at the Front Prompts Government to Inaugurate a Public Service Reserve.

Washington.—A campaign to enroll the country in the United States public service reserve, with particular effort to get men for the shipyards, will be inaugurated by the United States department of labor, acting in co-operation with the shipping board, according to a statement made by William Edwin Hall, national director of the reserve. State directors are being appointed and local organizations perfected in every state.

"The primary object of this campaign," said Mr. Hall, "is to obtain a large list of skilled and semi-skilled men who are not now producing war material or doing work useful to the prosecution of the war, and to get them into the shipyards and the factories which must be maintained at the highest speed if industry is to meet the insatiable demands of a large army at the front."

"It appears from published reports, such as the arrival of the Rainbow Division in France, that the number of American troops at or near the firing line is constantly increasing, and we civilians whom these troops have gone over there to protect, would be shamefully derelict in our national duty and quite wanting in patriotism if we did not make every personal sacrifice to keep our soldiers 100 per cent supplied."

Labor Needed in War Work.

"A number of the non-essential industries are employing labor which is urgently needed for war work—in the shipyards, for example. One is surprised to see how many kinds of workers are needed to build a ship. The shipping board has prepared for the public service reserve a list of 88 different 'peace' occupations from which men must—absolutely must—be drawn in order that our tremendous shipbuilding can be carried out in time. You often hear it said that ships will win the war; but today it is being put in a little different way by those who know the situation: A failure on the part of American civilians to build the necessary number of ships will make it impossible for the United States to continue to fight. A lack of ships may lose the war."

"The United States public service reserve," explained Mr. Hall, "is working at high speed today to obtain all these men needed for shipbuilding, for making equipment, for gun manufacturing, for mechanical draughting, for hundreds of other vital operations, from the 'non-essential industries'—that is, from industries which are important to a country at peace but, in the final analysis, virtually unnecessary to a country at war."

"Our effort is always to obtain the workers for war industry without crippling the peace industry. We will not draw away an over-production of employees from any one locality, from any one industry, from any one employer. War means suffering. A considerable disturbance of industry is inevitable. The public service reserve proposes to bring about the necessary shifting of labor with just as little disturbance as possible. We want no industry and no employer to have to bear any more than a fair, legitimate share of the burden which the peremptory demands of war throw upon all of us."

Differs From Army Enlistment.

"Men who enroll in the United States public service reserve state their trade and suggest other classes of work they could do, if necessary, for the war. The enrolled men will remain at their present jobs and when they are notified that an opportunity to put them into war work has arisen, they are under no obligation to accept the new jobs unless satisfied with wages and conditions. Thus their enrollment in the reserve differs from enlistment in the army, where the soldier has no choice but to obey."

"Every day more and more American workers are beginning to feel in their hearts that in this critical period of the nation's history they should be devoting their energies to the actual war needs of their country. By enrolling in the United States public service they enjoy a happier conscience, for they know that they have thereby declared their patriotism and that the moment a war industry needs men of their type they will be given a chance to serve the country without leaving civilian life."

CRAWFISH CLOSES FACTORY

Becomes Lodged in Water Meter and Shuts Off Supply.

An insignificant crawfish, measuring three inches in length, that became lodged in the meter, shut off the supply of water for the big La Belle Iron works at Wheeling, W. Va., and caused the big plant to close down temporarily, making idle 3,000 workmen.

The crawfish had traveled from the river through the pump plant to the city reservoir and through the water mains, a distance of more than 8,000 feet, before reaching the meter.